

# National Historic Mining Initiative LC3

The National Historic Mining Initiative is a member of the eBay Verified Rights Owner (VeRO) Program and as a member we monitor use of copyrighted text from our publications. This page has been created to help eBay users better understand the proper use of our intellectual property in auction listings. We reviews items for sale on eBay to ensure that customers are not confused by seeing and reading our histories within auction listings and assuming that such listings are sponsored or approved by us. The NHMI has a reputation in the historical marketplace and we aggressively protect our intellectual property from infringement.

## **Why was my auction terminated?**

A: Use of our copyrighted materials without permission or attribution has led to eBay pulling and cancelling your listing. Use of our materials are subject to licensing agreements. Contact us at [thelivingwest@gmail.com](mailto:thelivingwest@gmail.com) for further information

## **What if I did not realize that I was infringing on your copyright?**

A: Ignorance of the law is no excuse. You must describe your items in your listing using your own words. The photos you use must be ones you have permission to use. The words you use must also be those you have permission to use. And just because someone else has posted words on the internet does not mean they are free to reuse as you see fit.

We hope that this brief overview by Russell Hartill, JD, of our position helps explain why our words are OUR words.

My words are MY words. A phrase in Spanish goes like this... Mi Casa es Su Casa; (My house is Your house) We have a cute plaque in our house that alternatively states: Mi Casa es Mi Casa (My House is My House). It sums up my thoughts on copyright precisely: My Words are MY words.

When I write something I am investing my time and my insights into wrapping thoughts emotions and feelings about a topic into a unique package that evokes a style, a sense of being there, or otherwise captures a specific esthetic that is distinctly my own. Try as some might, you cannot separately or claim for your own that which I have seen, expressed and authored and given to the world. My contribution to this planet is mine. My words may help or hinder; my words may confuse or enlighten; my words may travel around the world or stay in the same room in which they were written. But they will always be mine. My written contribution may obtain an audience or one or of millions; and no matter who sees my words (or never sees them) to me they are distinctly my children. I have happy thoughts and fond memories of how hard it was to raise them, nurture them and then send them out into the world. I cannot be emotionally or physically detached from my words. I am their father and author and have bonded to them in a tangible way.

On rare occasions some of my written works evoke a sense of nostalgia or remembrance of great pride and a sense of accomplishment and fulfilling a good purpose. Such are my feelings with respect to the publication of Desert Fever. Thirty years ago an opportunity of a lifetime was mine and I contributed my labors in a literary and scholarly effort with two co-authors to bring forth a history of mining in the California Desert. It received critical acclaim

and has become a standard of reference to anyone studying the history of mining in Southern California.

I am proud of my words contained within Desert Fever and know them well and consider them good friends. I am also somewhat protective of where they appear in public. I want them to be seen, but I also want them to be seen in proper context, in good environments, and I do not want them to be misunderstood or used in ways in which I do not approve. Such is my prerogative and right as their author and father.

My words embrace mining history and I resent anyone using them to help erase mining history. I really enjoy re-reading the history of the areas covered in Desert Fever. After all these years, several turns of a phrase and descriptions of the mining fever we nicknamed Desert Fever truly have become timeless classics.

Don't dilute or diminish our words.

-Russ Hartill

When it comes to the history of the mining in the American West, we believe our histories are scholarly, accurate, comprehensive and in many cases have become the standard for creative, dynamic history. Imitation may be the sincerest form of flattery, but plagiarism is a violation of US Copyright law and eBay listing policies. For further information on the National Historic Mining Initiative:

<http://www.historicmines.org>

